

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 414  
By Finney

A RESOLUTION to recognize J. B. "Jack" Richesin, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, J. B. "Jack" Richesin, Jr. is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for ten years as a member of the Blount County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, born August 31, 1922, in Loudon County, Jack Richesin was given the reins to the family farm at a young age when his father's health failed; he quickly discerned that job skills and school were important for his future; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Madisonville High School, he was employed by the Rural Electrification Administration and, in 1941, he began a career with the Aluminum Company of America; that same year, he married Ruth Cantrell, marking the beginning of a 64-year romance; and

WHEREAS, World War II interrupted the young couple's lives and, in 1942, Jack joined the United States Navy; he served on the USS Ajax in the South Pacific until 1945. His shipboard responsibilities were to distill water for the U.S. Marines on the various Pacific islands and to repair damaged ships; and

WHEREAS, while Jack was engaged in his Naval duties, Ruth Richesin crossed the country by train to San Diego to work for Consolidated Aircraft; and

WHEREAS, following his discharge from the Navy, Mr. Richesin returned to work for ALCOA as a millwright; he continued his education with extensive coursework at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, West Virginia University at Morganton, and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, Jack Richesin rose to become Vice President of Local 309 of the United Steelworkers Union and has held various managerial positions since 1967 with ALCOA, culminating in his appointment as Superintendent of Construction, Buildings and Grounds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richesin is justly recognized for his effective work on behalf of union members, hunters and fishermen in campaigns for Howard Baker, Winfield Dunn and Lamar Alexander; he earned the respect of Democrats and Republicans for his ability to work with unions and management in tough negotiations; and

WHEREAS, Jack Richesin rendered valuable service as a member of the Appalachian Regional Commission and as Commissioner of Labor in the administration of Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, as Tennessee Commissioner of Labor, Mr. Richesin promoted job training in colleges and technical schools in an effort to provide the precise skills needed to attract one billion dollars in Japanese investment; and

WHEREAS, Governor Alexander was able to convince Japanese corporations that Tennessee workers could build better trucks than any workers anywhere else in the world and that, along with the job training and preparedness, gave Tennessee workers employment at firms like DENSO and caught the attention of auto manufacturers and parts suppliers around the world; and

WHEREAS, Jack Richesin can take much satisfaction in the pride Tennessee auto workers take in their product and in the role he took in providing for their training; and

WHEREAS, for the last ten years, Mr. Richesin has served adroitly on the Blount County Election Commission; he has determined now to enjoy a well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the love and support of his wife, Ruth, Jack is the proud father of Linda Malone, Don Richesin and Cindy Henegar; Jack and Ruth are the doting grandparents of five and great-grandparents of four, all of whom comprise a family spread from San Francisco, California to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and from Maryville, Tennessee to Brazil; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Richesin has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to J. B. "Jack" Richesin, Jr. our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.